

RINEHART-WANTZ HOUSE

179 West Main Street

The Pinehart-Wantz House, as close to a 5-bay cube as it exists in the City, looks north onto West Main Street about halfway between Uniontown Road and Rush Alley. The great red-brick-with-white-trim pile rests on low coursed fieldstone foundations. This superlative pile was built in 1868 by William G. Rinehart, a great Galsworthy-like Man of Property. Rinehart, with later additions by his son-in-law and grandson, created one of the finest buildings in this part of the state-on the exterior, by means of thick rolling bracket cornices and other trim and by the chromatic interplay between the trims' whiteness and the deep Tuscan red of the brick, on the interior, by the broad rippling molding which surrounds the doors and by the unequalled collection of French Second Empire furnishings, and in spirit, by the easy elegance and good-natured grace that emanate from the building. All this is true despite many alterations in Rinehart's original home: the exquisite wooden fence that separated the building from the street has been removed as has the Corinthian-columned entrance porch (the latter being replaced by a behemoth verandah). Also missing today are the original outbuildings - a bank barn, which has been replaced by a 5-car garage, and the outhouses and other necessities that would accompany a building of this size in the late-Victorian era, along with the requisite gardens. Still, by any standard, the Pinehart-Wantz House is a landmark in Westminster, if not in the area; despite these several alterations that economics have wrought on the house's fabric and on the former dependencies, the house is still able to present an unrivaled atmosphere of late-Victorian affluence, an atmosphere that is not hurt by the sense of continuity of the house, as it has always been owned and lived in by the same family.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR 452
0704524504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC William G. Rinehart House

AND/OR COMMON J. Pearre Mantz House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 179 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

STATE _____ VICINITY OF _____ COUNTY _____

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME J. Pearre Mantz, Jr. Telephone #: 848-4707

STREET & NUMBER 179 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE, zip code Maryland 21157

_____ VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carroll County Office Building Liber #: 213

STREET & NUMBER Center Street Folio #: 228

CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE _____

_____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL _____

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pinehart-Wantz House, as close to a 5-bay cube as exists in the City, looks north onto West Main Street about halfway between Uniontown Road and Rush Alley in Westminster. The great pile rests on low coursed fieldstone foundations.

Although it does very nearly create a cube, the building might conveniently be divided into two sections: a front five-bay-by-two-bay gabled-roofed section, and a rear shed-roofed section. The principal north facade of the gable-roofed section is five bays wide on each of its full three floors. The entrance door is the central ground floor bay. It is recessed about two feet, and consists of a central frosted and etched panel above an enriched base. Gold-colored stained glass sidelights flank the door, and a similar pattern is found in the broad rectangular transom which tops the door. These lights, the door itself, and the ornate cast brass hardware are all original. The entire ensemble is enframed by rippling molded woodwork (resembling heavy linenfold). This door is the base of a central axis which is dominant all the way up this facade; it is furthered on the second floor by a set of French Doors, which rest between dark louvered shutters and a fine, denticulated, two-part, bracketed entablature on the third floor by a window with an excessively elaborate lintel (which will be discussed later) and above by a typical (but more ornate) Victorian gothic gable in the roof, which contains, in its center, a round quatrefoil attic window. On either side of this axis are two double-hung sash windows on each of its three full floors. Those of the first and second floors are identical (six over six panes, white wooden sills, dark green louvered shutters, and the same two-part denticulated entablature as exists on the second floor French Doors). Those on the third floor are similar in size, and, being on the third floor, will be less decorated: this diminution of decoration is achieved by having only flat, wooden, white-painted lintels. Flat lintels, that is, except for the central bay which has a lintel that is a small scale version of the roof of this side: flat, broken by a central gable, and heavily bracketed. The true crown of the facade consists of a white, molded, wood, two-part, denticulated entablature that is over two feet tall and three feet thick. Pairs of extremely elaborate scroll brackets alternate with the windows (except of course, within the gable where they are regularly placed). This facade is unchanged from its original appearance but for the ground floor porch. Originally, the porch was small, measuring about 10' x 10', and extended only about the entrance door, with a flat roof and a delicately-railed balcony which one got to by means of the second-story French Doors. The balcony railing was repeated around the house and was strung between clusters of bracketed corinthian columns. In the 1920's, however, this porch began rotting, and the present porch was built. It is much deeper than the original and extends far to the east and west walls of the main bulk of the house and can be thought of either as enveloping the ground floor, or as serving as a tray to serve up the rest of the building. Several thick brick posts

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1868 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William G. Rinehart

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By any standard, the Rinehart-Wantz House is a landmark in Westminster, if not in the area. Despite the several alterations that have been made to the house's fabric and to the once surrounding dependencies and outbuildings, the house is still able to present an unrivaled atmosphere of late-Victorian affluence. Its nearest rival, a century ago, would have been "Terrace Hill", built only a few hundred feet away, but that house has long since been adapted to collegiate needs and has lost much of its original grand atmosphere. Continuity, on the other hand, has prevailed at 17^o West Main Street; the present owner, who was born in the house, is a grandson of the house's builder. Thus, while other great houses of that era ("Terrace Hill", the Fisher-Smith-Fletcher House, the Peifsnider-Pobrecht House) have, due to economics, lost much of their former grandness and present only a hint of their glories, the Rinehart-Wantz House is not only the best remaining example in the area of 1860's high style, it also presents a fine example of continuity of use, and of adaptation to current needs without sacrificing past grandeur. The interior woodwork of the Rinehart-Wantz House cannot be matched in the City and, although "Terrace Hill" in its heyday might have had finer exterior trim, perhaps only the Fisher-Smith-Fletcher House can match the brackets, the window trim, and the porch today. Several people, including the present owner's sister, have expressed reservations about the present porch, but it unquestionably increases the sensation of volume about the house, which would have doubtless been a concern of its original builder, William G. Rinehart.

Rinehart bought the 420' x 198' parcel from Emanuel Gernaund on May 24, 1868 for \$800 (Carroll County Deed Book 35, Page 292). Pinehart, who had a large farm in Carroll County had intended to sell bricks to Western Maryland College, which was organizing itself at this time, but, when they could not pay for them, he decided to build a townhouse for himself, which he certainly did. Rinehart died on August 29, 1904 (after having built and owned several buildings and lots in this West End of Westminster) when his widow inherited by Will 9/364. When his widow, Caroline Rinehart, died on July 30, 1906 their daughter, Carrie G. R. Wantz, wife of James Pearre Wantz, Senior, inherited by Will 10/50. Mrs. Wantz's father-in-law, Charles V. Wantz, had built a large house at 101 East Main Street as well as the Wantz Buildings. Straw deeds dated June

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being approximately a 1/2 acre parcel measuring 120' x 198' and consisting of lots 23 and 24 of B. S. Pigman's Addition to the City of Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

April
DATE

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

#1
support the flat roof of the porch and its equally thick, full, but plain, entablature. Curiously, delicate brackets, set in pairs, are placed in the center of each post, and similar brackets, placed perpendicularly mark the entrance.

The west facade of the main section is blind except for a quatrefoil window in the attic located in the center of the gable. The gable continues the heavy cornice, as do all sides of the house. The east front of the main section is two bays wide and originally consisted of 6 (two per floor) 6/6 windows. Four of these originals still exist, but the southern windows on the ground and second stories have been altered and are now a 2-story three-sided, flat-roofed, white, wooden, bay window with two 1/1 windows per floor to the east and one each to the north and south of the floor. The shed-roofed extension consists of two 6/6 windows on the third and second stories; similar windows originally existed on the ground floor but have been altered into 16-light casement windows to light the kitchen. The south facade of the shed-roofed extension originally had a two-story, slightly-nitched, shed-roofed porch and a third-story door leading to third-story living quarters. Present owners, due again to labor economic reasons removed the door and the staircase leading to it, but have retained the porch and the two doors (one per floor) which lead to it. The porch is simply railed on the second floor. On the ground floor, there is an eastern half-wood, half-glass door which leads from the kitchen to the newly screened-in ground-story porch. The door has been placed in this location by the present owners so that the elaborately landscaped rear garden can be seen while walking from the dining room to the kitchen. Most houses in this area, of this time, had side porches, and this is no exception. However, it has now been almost entirely enclosed to provide bathrooms (originally the house had none, only a system of outhouses), except on the ground floor where a door still leads to the kitchen. The south facade of the gable-roofed section consists of two 6/6 windows per floor, all regularly spaced and treated similarly to those on the north facade.

In plan, the house consists of typical central hall, double parlor arrangement on each floor, except that there are two double parlors per floor. (However on the ground floor the western double parlor is, and was, one room deep consisting of a very formal parlor). As could be expected, interior woodwork is ornate: newel posts and riser decorations, and balusters are all richly carved and turned, and ground-story doors are enframed by the same two-foot wide, rippling, white, molded wood that is found about the entrance door. Most of the house's furniture is original, and nearly all that is not consists of French contemporaneous (Second Empire) family pieces. Several pieces, including some of the most elaborate in the main parlor (floor to ceiling gilded mirrors, marble statuary, etc.), came from the Charles V. Wantz House at 101 East Main Street (q.v.)

Although the house originally had several "fireplaces," they were not intended to be the scene of blazing fires, rather they held Latrobe stoves whose pipes ran up the sides of the building to the chimneys above: two on each of the gable ends of the Main section flush with the wall placed about 1' from the roof's ridge. The present owners have removed the stoves and have made the fireplaces working.

When built, in 1868, the house was roofed by chestnut shingles. These still exist but have been covered over (c. 1900) by a tin roof. The small estate also originally resembled something of a suburban villa. The grounds, consisting of about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, contained extensive orchards and vegetable gardens, a large bank barn, chicken houses, and servants' quarters. This last, consisting of a single pile 3-bay-by-2-bay, two-story, clapboard, gable-roofed building, still exists. However, all the rest, including the outhouses, ice houses, carriage shops, etc., have been removed - the barn yielding to a 5 car garage, and the produce producing plants now consisting of a couple of Bartlett pear trees, and a grape arbor.

24, 1935, placed title in both Mr. & Mrs. Wantz (162/311 and 162/311). Mrs. Wantz died and by straw deeds dated August 2, 1948, title was divided among Wantz, and his children, Caroline P. Taylor and James Pearre Wantz, Jr. (199/184, 199/185). When Pearre Wantz, Sr. died, the land was vested in his children, Caroline and Pearre, Jr., and eventually title vested in present owner by deed dated August 1, 1952.

It was noted that Pinehart built many houses in this area, one of his finest was a house built for his daughter and son-in-law, on the Old Schoolhouse lot (see form for 180 West Main Street). The present owner, who, as noted, was born in this house, has been, like other Wantz's, at the center of Westminster's business world, having been head of the area's oldest bank, the Union National Bank, for several years before his recent retirement. Wantz has a treasury of local stories, one might bear repeating. In his youth, when money was tight and when livestock in the City was plentiful, there was an abundance of flies. To help ease the situation, the City offered a bounty of 15¢ per quart of dead flies, plus a pass to the local movie theater. Wantz and his friends in the area would set out to catch flies (besides the horses and sheep kept by the Wantz's, neighbors kept hogs and practically everyone kept chickens) and usually secured several score quarts of flies per week, which would be caught live and killed by being baked in the Pinehart-Wantz kitchen stove. The relish with which Wantz tells this story illustrates several points about the house: it is a house built and maintained by financiers, but, probably at least as important, it represents the easy elegance that exudes from the house. Wantz, who, has lived here all his life, finds "nothing special about the place", dismissing its gilt and marble while taking great pleasure in his model trains and Christmas village, and in the baroque-carved pool table that originally graced the Wantz Building's tobacco store. (Wantz feels that the pool table probably was an inducement to local youths to come in and loiter, while there, to purchase cigars.) It is this completely relaxed air about the house (for the house's 100th anniversary, Wantz made and decorated a cake in the shape of the house) that gives it its unequalled grace, a grace that combines with the also unequalled detailing (quatrefoil attic windows, immense brackets, the third-floor, central window's roof line - echoing lintel) which combine to make the house an invaluable asset to the community.

57%



CARR-452

RIMHART-WANTZ HOUSE

179 W. Main St.

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(452)

CARR-452

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P. 9³/₄₅

CXXXVI A

Rinehart - Wentz Home
177 S. W. Main Street
Principal entrance door.

S.S.



94-146

2
O LINE
O HALFTONE
O DUOTONE

S.S.
SPEC. INSTRUCTIONS

CXXXVIII14~~9~~6Same
SizeRichard Vantz House
today.p. 92
94

(25)



CARR-452

145

CXXXVI

752



CAMM 452

179 W. MAIN ST.
WESTMINSTER

N² facade c. 1880
photo - J.P. Wauhs, Jr.
c. 1977 5/77

20070



Hillside Court

Handwritten notes on the right side of the page, including the name "Hillside Court" and other illegible text.

CARR-452

RINEHART-WANTZ HOUSE

179 W. Main St.

148

~~200~~%

P. ~~4395~~

CXXVII

Rinehart - Wantz House as
originally built.



CARR-452

Rear